

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic ~~still~~ camera
2 comprising:
3 a plurality of detectors which are provided
4 respectively at different positions, each of ~~and~~ which
5 detectors being adapted to detect contact or approach of a
6 hand to make an image pickup operation;

7 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in
8 ~~which a predetermined power and/or driving pulse is~~
9 ~~supplied to an image pickup device, capable of commencing~~
10 can commence an image pickup operation immediately in
11 response to a release instruction, wherein the stand-by
12 mode can be entered ^{commence} even if a shutter release switch is not
13 pressed; and

14 an image pickup controller which controls the camera
15 to perform a preliminary operation for image pickup if both
16 ~~a first condition wherein the stand-by mode is set by the~~
17 ~~mode setup unit and the image pickup operation is allowed~~
18 ~~to be commenced immediately in response to the release~~
19 ~~instruction, and a second condition wherein all of the~~
20 plurality of detectors detect the contact or approach of a
21 hand, are both satisfied.

1 Claim 2 (previously presented): A camera according to
2 claim 1, further comprising mode holding means using a
3 non-volatile memory, which holds a setup state of the
4 stand-by mode set by the mode setup unit even during a
5 power-off period.

1 Claim 3 (previously presented): A camera according to
2 claim 1, further comprising a mode release unit which
3 releases the stand-by mode when the stand-by mode is set by
4 the mode setup unit and a period in which at least one of
5 the plurality of detectors does not detect the contact or
6 approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): A camera according to claim 1,
2 further comprising operation controller which renders only
3 a part of the plurality of detectors operational, when the
4 stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit and a period in
5 which at least one of the plurality of detectors does not
6 detect the contact or approach of a hand reaches a
7 predetermined time.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): A camera according to claim
2 1, wherein the plurality of detectors are provided at least
3 at a grip part and proximal to a release button part of a
4 camera body.

1 Claim 6 (original): A camera according to claim 1, wherein
2 the preliminary operation includes at least automatic
3 exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and automatic white
4 balance adjustment.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): An electronic ~~still~~ camera
2 comprising:
3 a detector which is provided near a release button and
4 ~~detects contact or~~ adapted to detect an approach of a hand
5 to the release button to make an image pickup operation;
6 a main power switch which switches on and off a power
7 source of the camera; and

8 an image pickup controller which executes a
9 preliminary operation for image pickup so that an image
10 pickup operation can occur immediately in response to a
11 release instruction, if both ~~a first condition wherein~~ the
12 power switch is set on and ~~a second condition wherein the~~
13 detector detects the ~~contact or~~ approach of a hand ~~are both~~
14 satisfied.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): A camera according to
2 claim 1, wherein the preliminary operation includes at
3 least electric conducting to an image pickup device.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): An electronic ~~still~~ camera
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of detectors which are provided
4 respectively at different positions, each of and which
5 detectors being adapted to detect contact or approach of a
6 hand;

7 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in
8 which ~~a predetermined power and/or driving pulse is~~
9 ~~supplied to an image pickup device, capable of commencing~~
10 can commence an image pickup operation immediately in
11 response to a release instruction, wherein the stand-by
12 mode can be entered even if a shutter release switch is not
13 pressed; and

14 an image pickup controller which executes a
15 preliminary operation for image pickup if both ~~a first~~
16 ~~condition wherein~~ the stand-by mode is set by the mode
17 setup unit and ~~the image pickup operation is allowed to be~~
18 ~~commenced immediately in response to the release~~
19 ~~instruction, and a second condition wherein at least one of~~

20 the plurality of detectors detects the contact or approach
21 of a hand, ~~are both satisfied.~~

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for controlling an
2 electronic ~~still~~ camera, comprising:

3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera
4 body, by each of a plurality of detectors provided
5 respectively at different positions on the electronic
6 camera;

7 bringing an image pickup system including at least an
8 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the
9 image pickup system ~~commences~~ can commence an image pickup
10 operation immediately in response to a release instruction,
11 wherein the stand-by state can be entered even if a shutter
12 release switch is not pressed; and

13 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if
14 ~~both a first condition wherein the image pickup system is~~
15 ~~in the stand-by state and the image pickup operation is~~
16 ~~allowed to be commenced immediately in response to the~~
17 ~~release instruction, and a second condition wherein all the~~
18 plurality of detectors detect the contact or approach of a
19 hand, ~~are both satisfied.~~

1 Claim 11 (previously presented): A method according to
2 claim 10, wherein the preliminary operation is executed if
3 all the plurality of detectors detect the contact or
4 approach of a hand.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to claim
2 11, wherein when detecting, if the image pickup system is
3 in the stand-by state and a part of the plurality of
4 detectors detects the contact or approach of a hand to make

5 an image pickup operation, another part of the plurality of
6 detectors that was previously non-operational, starts a
7 detection operation.

1 Claim 13 (previously presented): A method according to
2 claim 10, wherein the plurality of detectors are provided
3 at least at a grip part and a release button part of a
4 camera body.

1 Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to
2 claim 10, further comprising writing a setup of the image
3 pickup system in the stand-by state into a non-volatile
4 memory if an input for turning off a power source is given.

cont
1 Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to
2 claim 10, further comprising releasing the stand-by state
3 when the stand-by state is set and a period in which at
4 least one of the plurality of detectors does not detect the
5 contact or approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 Claim 16 (original): A method according to claim 10,
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least
3 automatic exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and
4 automatic white balance adjustment.

1 Claim 17 (original): A method according to claim 10,
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least
3 electric conducting to the image pickup device.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for controlling an
2 electronic ~~still~~ camera, comprising:

3 detecting ~~contact or an~~ approach of a hand to a
4 release button by a detector provided near a the release
5 button;

6 switching on and off a main power source of the
7 camera; and

8 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup so
9 that an image pickup operation can occur immediately in
10 response to a release instruction, if both a first
11 ~~condition wherein the power switch is set on and a second~~
12 ~~condition wherein the~~ detector detects the ~~contact or~~
13 approach of a hand to the release button ~~are both~~
14 satisfied.

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1 Claim 19 (original): A method according to claim 18,
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least
3 electric conducting to an image pickup device.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for controlling an
2 electronic ~~still~~ camera, comprising:

3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera
4 body, ~~by using each of~~ a plurality of detectors provided
5 respectively at different positions on the electronic
6 camera;

7 bringing an image pickup system including at least an
8 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the
9 image pickup system ~~commences~~ can commence an image pickup
10 operation immediately in response to a release instruction,
11 wherein the stand-by state can be entered even if a shutter
12 release switch is not pressed; and

13 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if
14 ~~both a first condition wherein the stand-by mode is set and~~
15 ~~the image pickup operation is allowed to be commenced~~

16 ~~immediately in response to the release instruction~~, and a
17 ~~second condition wherein~~ at least one of the plurality of
18 detectors detects the contact or approach of a hand, ~~are~~
19 ~~both satisfied~~.

1 Claim 21 (new): The camera of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 of the detectors is adapted to detect an approach of a
3 hand.

1 Claim 22 (new): The camera of claim 9 wherein at least one
2 of the detectors is adapted to detect an approach of a
3 hand.

1 Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 10 wherein the act of
2 detecting detects an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 20 wherein the act of
2 detecting detects an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 25 (new): The camera of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 of the detectors is a pyroelectric sensor.

1 Claim 26 (new): The camera of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 of the detectors is a photosensor.

1 Claim 27 (new): The camera of claim 7 wherein the detector
2 is a pyroelectric sensor.

1 Claim 28 (new): The camera of claim 7 wherein the detector
2 is a photosensor.

1 Claim 29 (new): The camera of claim 9 wherein at least one
2 of the detectors is a pyroelectric sensor.

1 Claim 30 (new): The camera of claim 9 wherein at least one
2 of the detectors is a photosensor.

1 Claim 31 (new): The camera of claim 1 wherein, initially,
2 a first one of the detectors is rendered operational while
3 a second one of the detectors is rendered non-operational
4 until a contact or approach of a hand is sensed by the
5 first one of the detectors, at which time the second one of
6 the detectors is rendered operational.

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and

1 Claim 32 (new): The camera of claim 7 wherein, initially,
2 a first one of the detectors is rendered operational while
3 a second one of the detectors is rendered non-operational
4 until a contact or approach of a hand is sensed by the
5 first one of the detectors, at which time the second one of
6 the detectors is rendered operational.

1 Claim 33 (new): The camera of claim 9 wherein, initially,
2 a first one of the detectors is rendered operational while
3 a second one of the detectors is rendered non-operational
4 until a contact or approach of a hand is sensed by the
5 first one of the detectors, at which time the second one of
6 the detectors is rendered operational.
